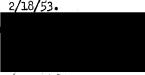
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PN 1128: West China Area Study



Deadline of 1 June 52

This is a tentative cutling deser upon a preliminary survey of source materials for a study of the geography of Kansu, Tsinghai, Sikang and northwestern Szechwan. A regional organization is proposel for the study and the tentative geographic regions shown on the accompanying map are based upon terrain, climatic and vegetation criteria interrelated with the economic activity and the ethnic groups of the area. The history, terrain, climate and vegetation of each region will be included in the study as well as information on sthmic and religious groups and their social and economic characteristics

- I. The Western Frontiers of Chinese Agriculture.
 - A. Kansu Corridor.
 - The Loess Region (Eastern Kansu, including the Wei Ho Valley and the Shensi-Kansu Basin.)
 - Koko Mor Region (Morthesstern Tsinghai). 2.
 - 3. Stain Gol Region (Central Renew).
 - Sulo Ho Basin (Western Kansu).

(Treatment: This region is to be treated as a major unit, including the following basic problems: a) the strategic importance of the Kansu Corridor as the major route from China Proper to the west, including the proposed China-Sikiang-USSR railroad, b) the expansion of intensive Chinese agriculture into the locas lands and the transition of casis agriculture and to steppe novadism in the Corridor. Consideration will be given to the culture conflicts of ethnic groups and their economic activities in the region.)

- B. Eastern Sikang.
 - l. Ya Region (Tatsienlu area).
 - Ming Region (Southeastern and northeastern Eikeng and northwestern Smechumn).



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(Treatment: This is an area of culture contact and conflict in West China between the intensive sedentary agriculture of the West Chinese and the shifting agriculture and nomadism of the Tibetans and Mongols in Regions II-A, II-B, III-A and III-B. Consideration will also be given to the buffer tribes in Eastern Sikang (Minya, Mu-li, Gyarong, Ch'iang, etc.).

- II. High Steppe Bonedism of Teinghai.
 - A. The Central and Morthern Mountain Ranges and Beains.
 - 1. Ken Shee.
 - K'un-lum Shan, Asme Machin, Min Shan and Tsinling Ranges.
 - 3. Tsaidam Basin (Tsaidam Mongole).
 - 4. Koko Hor Basin (Amdo Tibetans).
- B. The Chang-tang (Central Fibetans, Goloks, etc.).

 (Treatment: The central and northern mountain ranges of West China are barriers to movement and contact between the various major ethnic groups in this area of steppe nomadism.)
 - III. Sedentary Agriculturalists of the Sikang Gorges.

 A. Western Sikang (Kam Tibetens).
 - B. Southern Sikang (Border tribes such as the Mo-so, Mu-li, Minya, etc.).

(Treatment: The wild garge region of central and vestern Sikang is populated by sedentary but primitive agriculturalists, the Kam Tibetans, who are on the frontier of the expanding intensive agriculture of the West Chinese (Region I-B). The region includes the valleys of the Salveen, Mekong and Yangtse Rivers.)

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